



R.I. Department of Environmental Management  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
**2023-24 Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits**



Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
<b>Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days*</b>	October 28 - 29, 2023	Same as regular season.
Youth Hunters ages 12-15 accompanied by a properly licensed adult, 21 years of age or older.		
<b>Canada Goose Early Season</b>	September 1 - 30, 2023	15
Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for the September season only.		
<b>Canada Goose Regular Season</b>	November 18 - 26, 2023 and December 2, 2023 - January 21, 2024	2
Permits and reservations are required to hunt the goose fields at the South Shore Management Area** in South Kingstown.		
<b>Canada Goose Late Season</b>	January 27, 2024 - February 10, 2024	5
CLOSED in Newport County, and portions of Washington County as described in RI Hunting Regulations § 9.11(B)(3)(d).		
<b>Snow Geese (Inc. Blue Geese)</b>	October 7, 2023 - January 21, 2024	25 No Poss. Limit
<b>Brant</b>	December 23, 2023 - January 21, 2024	1

**Possession Limit: Three (3) times the Daily Bag Limit**  
(unless otherwise indicated)

**\* Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**  
**October 28 - 29, 2023**

Youth hunters must be 12-15 years of age.

- May take ducks, sea ducks, geese, gallinules and brant following daily bag and possession limits for the regular seasons.
- Youth hunters shall hunt only in the immediate company of a qualified, licensed adult, 21 years of age or older.
- The accompanying adult(s) are prohibited from hunting on Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.
- Youth hunters and accompanying adults must have current Rhode Island hunting licenses and H.I.P permits.
- Accompanying adult(s) must also possess valid state and federal waterfowl stamps.

**\*\* South Shore Management Area**

- Permit available 24 hrs/day through the online licensing system or the DEM, Fish and Wildlife Great Swamp Field Office during normal business hours.
- Reservations are required to hunt the Canada Goose Regular Season.
- Reservation information available from the DEM Fish and Wildlife Great Swamp Field Office or on the website.
- Closed during the Canada Goose Late Season (January 27, 2024 - February 10, 2024).

**Division of Law Enforcement**  
24hr Violation Line: (401) 222-3070



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Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
<b>Ducks</b>	October 13 - 16, 2023 November 22 - 26, 2023 December 2, 2023 - January 21, 2024	6*
* The daily bag limit shall include no more than four (4) mallards of which two (2) may be hens, three (3) wood ducks, two (2) redheads, two (2) black ducks, one (1) pintail, one (1) or two (2) scaup (see below), four (4) sea ducks (see below), and two (2) canvasbacks.		
<b>Scaup</b>	October 13 - 16, 2023, November 22 - 26, 2023, December 2, 2023 - January 1, 2024	1
	January 2 - 21, 2024	2
<b>Sea Ducks</b>	Same As Ducks	4**
** The daily bag limit of sea ducks (4) is part of the daily duck bag limit of 6. The daily bag limit is 4, singly or in aggregate, but not to exceed 3 Scoter, 3 Eider ( <b>1 Hen</b> ), or 3 Long-tailed Ducks.		
<b>Mergansers</b>	Same As Ducks	5
<b>Coots</b>	Same As Ducks	15
<b>Swans</b>	CLOSED	
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>	CLOSED	

**Possession Limit: Three (3) times the Daily Bag Limit.**

**2023-24 Waterfowl Regulation Highlights**

- Mallard bag limit has been increased to four (4) of which two (2) may be hen mallards.
- The brant season has been reduced to 30 days.
- The bag limit for brant has also been reduced to one (1).
- The minimum amount of goose decoys required to be on the SSMA premises has been reduced from 24 to 12.
- Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset unless otherwise noted in the regulations.
- Discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling is prohibited.
- **Non-Toxic Shot Requirement:** The possession of shells loaded with any shot other than non-toxic shot by any person hunting waterfowl, rails or snipe is prohibited.
- Cripples may be pursued, shot and retrieved from a boat under power in tidal waters seaward of the first upstream bridge; crippled birds must be immediately killed.
- **Closed Areas:** See regulations for a list and descriptions.

**Waterfowl Stamp and H.I.P Permit**

- All waterfowl hunters sixteen (16) years of age and older are required by law to purchase a Rhode Island Waterfowl Stamp as well as a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.
- State waterfowl stamp certifications issued through the web-based online licensing system need not be signed.
- Physical State Waterfowl Stamps obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife and Federal Ducks Stamps must be signed by the hunter across the face of the stamp and carried at all times when hunting.
- All migratory bird hunters, regardless of age must possess a current Harvest Information Program (H.I.P) Permit.

\* **Note:** This card is meant to provide a convenient summary of the dates and regulations but is not comprehensive. See the complete regulations for more information.